

NOTE: Please correct/add any items that I missed in preparing this draft. So many of you added valuable comments and I am certain I did not record some details adequately. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE DETAILS FROM THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS, ESPECIALLY NAMES, DATES, ETC.

As decided at the Jan. 25 Meeting, we will NOT meet in April. Our next 1812 Commission meeting will be held either on Sunday, August 3, or Tuesday, August 5, in conjunction with the Monday, August 4, 2015, Bicentennial of the Battle of Mackinac Island activities.

MINUTES (DRAFT, 1/25/14)

Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Meeting

10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 25, 2014

Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit MI

Present: Bob Bury, Jim McConnell, Phil Porter
On Phone: Brian Dunnigan, Molly Luempert-Coy, Russ Magnaghi,
Dick Micka, Dennis Moore, Ralph Naveaux, Jim Spurr.
Absent: David Hales, Eric Hemenway, George Zimmermann

The meeting was called to Order at 10:10 a.m. by Phil Porter, Chairman
Phil expressed appreciation to Bob Bury for hosting the meeting and to Jim Spurr for arranging the phone conference call system. With 70% of the Commissioners using the phone, this meeting would not have been possible.

The October 15, 2013, Meeting Minutes from the Detroit Historical Museum Meeting were approved,

I. Updates and Initiatives

A. Report on Sept. 29 Flag raising, 1812 Tour on Oct. 13 and Mon., Oct. 14, Symposium

Jim McConnell state that the 3 major events presented with the cooperation of the Detroit Historical Society were very successful. In spite of rain, more than 150 people attended the ceremony marking the return of the U.S. Flag to Detroit following the Battle of Lake Erie. A full bus enjoyed the 1812 Historic Sites of Southeast Michigan Tour and the small audience, slightly more than 50 attendees) enjoyed the Symposium presentations. While the first two projects were also financially positive, we lost more than \$1,500 on the Symposium. Tentative plans for an Oct. 2014 "Legacy of the War of 1812" have been cancelled.

B. Website and Media Update

Phil Porter reported that Kelsey Schnell will now be handling public relations and website support for the Commission. He is the Mackinac state Historic Parks Marketing Director. Jolene Priest has assumed new responsibilities within DNR, especially the State acquisition of Belle Isle. the Commission expressed appreciation to Jolene for your years of service. Kelsey has moved out releases on the Commission Meeting, the ASMA Art exhibited the "1812 Lecture Series" being offered at the Detroit Public Library.

Key Upcoming Projects

A. "1812-Star Spangled Nation" Paintings Exhibit

Presented by American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA), the exhibit is open Fri., Jan. 24, to Sat., March 1, 2014, Detroit Public Library. While snow has certainly impacted the Opening Program this afternoon, we will see if a modified Opening Program can be held on Sat., Feb. 1, along with the second lecture, "Detroit in the War of 1812" by Jim McConnell. Phil Porter will offer the opening lecture today on "Mackinac in the War of 1812."

B. Battle of Mackinac Island Reenactment, August 4, 2014

Phil Porter discussed plans for the reenactment of the August 4, 1814, battle, Updated information will be provided when plans are finalized. The event will take place in front of Fort Mackinac rather than at the battlefield site and will be in the evening. Phil stated thad discussion are underway with the "NIagara" based in Erie, PA, for a visit. Jim Spurr and Phil will also discuss a potential role for the "Friends Good Will."

C. September 13/14 Fort McHenry/Star Spangled Banner Events

Jim McConnell suggested the Commission consider creating materials that could be used by local historical, genealogical and other community groups to focus public attention on the events surrounding the British attack on Baltimore, including the bombardment of Fort McHenry, the writing of the National Anthem. He noted that many local events focused on the June 18, 2012, bicentennial of the Declaration of War, brought public attention to the start of the War of 1812. Outreach can be made to many civic organizations and to local governments, including the Michigan townships Association and the Michigan Municipal League. Motion approved to use the Sept. 13/14 events of 1814 as a focus of activities across Michigan.

D. Grand Pacification Ball, Saturday, March 28 2015 Planning

Plans for the "GPB" are nearly complete. The event will be held at the Detroit Historical Museum on sat., March 28, 2015, 5-9 p.m.. Opening reception in the Altessee Gallery of Culture featuring presentation by "Harriet Berg's Dance Troupe, "Belles and Bachelors of Fort Detroit" followed by dinner either in the Streets of old Detroit or the large room next to Glancy Train exhibit. We also plan an entertaining musical program after dinner. The committee will meet in the Spring to finalize these plans. The possibility of having liquor available was discussed and will also be determined by the committee. Suggestion was made that the caterer can best offer alcoholic beverages rather than the Commission or the Historical Society.

E. Other Potential Upcoming Events/Projects

1. ASMA has produced a 4.5 hour documentary,

"The Naval War of 1812" that is available for public programs at interested venues. While the length provides scheduling problems, Charles Robinson, Executive Producer of the program, has stated that a screening over several days or one day with breaks has been used successfully in his home state of Connecticut. Substantial interest was expressed by several Commissioners, including Bob Bury (Dossin Great Lakes Museum); Jim Spurr (Michigan Maritime Museum), and Russ Magnaghi (Northern Michigan University). The documentary might also be of interest to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and Mackinac State Historic Parks. Jim will send a separate email with more details to the Commissioners. He also has been in conversation with Janina Jacobs regarding potential interest by the United States Navy groups, including the Sea Cadets, in the Detroit area.

2, "Michigan War of 1812Dead" Michigan Historical marker

Jack Dempsey, Chair, Michigan Historical Commission, notified Phil Porter that the 1812 Marker at Washington Blvd. and Michigan Avenue is badly weathered and needs cleaning. He wondered if the 1812 Commission would be able to facilitate this project. The Commission indicated support including comments from Bob Bury and Molly Luempert-Coy. Jim McConnell suggested reaching out to key genealogical groups, including Sons and Daughters of 1812 and the D.A.R. Phil will contact Jack Dempsey to determine the role of the Historical Commission and how best to proceed.

3. Fort Holmes Reconstruction on Mackinac Island

Phil expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their support of the Mackinac state Historic Parks request for a special legislative appropriation of \$250,000 as a match for private fundraising led by the Friends of Mackinac, for another \$250,000. The money will be used to reconstruct the original Fort George (later renamed Fort Holmes) built by the British in the summer of 1814. If reconstructed, it could become a major historic site on Mackinac Island.

III. Member and Historic Site Reports

A. Dennis Moore, driving back after being 'trapped' in the Upper Peninsula with the storm-related closing of the Mackinac Bridge, described the "1812" Exhibit from the Canadian military Museum that is now on display at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, with a second display at the Adam

any Undergraduate Library at Wayne State University. He hopes the Canadian Consulate in Detroit will have opportunities support and participate in the Battle of Mackinac Island, the Grand Pacification Ball, and other upcoming 1812 projects.

B. Russ Magnaghi stated that the Star Spangled Banner proposal for next September will be a part of the Northern Michigan University Academic Symposium (NAME) next September. NMU is pleased to be hosting the Canadian Military Museum "181" exhibit.

C. Molly Luempert-Coy reported that DTE has continued to support many "1812" projects, especially in Monroe and was very pleased that the River Raisin Battlefield National Park had an award-winning float in the Holland Tulip Festival Parade last May. She hopes to continue supporting such projects as the Grand Pacification Ball

D. Brian Dunnigan stated that the Clements Library is functioning well at its temporary location south of campus while the facility is completed updated. He reported that the Clements had just received 105 documents to add to their collection of Oliver Hazard Perry Papers and are in negotiations to add materials from one of the early commanders of the American Post on Mackinac Island to their collections.

E. Dick Micka discussed new publication on 1812 in Monroe (TITLE, AUTHOR?) that he is serving on an 1812 panel at a Feb. 6 program in Chatham-Kent, Ontario, and that the River Raisin National Battlefield Park is involved with a strategic study of the I-75 corridor. The Lake Erie Circle Tour Route is hoping to increase its information on the River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

F. Jim Spurr commented that 2013 was truly a banner year for Tall Ships America" with many wonderful events held on the Great Lakes, including the Battle of Lake Erie programs in September. The "Friends Good Will" was able to play a key role in many programs. He will be speaking in Hudsonville next month as well as offering one of the six lectures in the Detroit Public Library Saturday Series.

G. Ralph Naveaux, whose phone "disconnected and froze" in the low temps, email a thorough report on the 201st anniversary of the Battle of the River Raisin. It is attached.

H. Bob Bury noted that the Detroit Historical Society was very pleased to provide facilities and staff support for so many 1812 events over the past four years, especially the recent Flag Raising, Tour, and Symposium. He hopes this special relationship will continue for the remaining 18 months of the bicentennial observance. He is especially interested in the "War of 1812 Dead" Historical marker restoration, the "Grand Pacification Ball," and the possible use of the ASMA "Navel war of 1812" documentary for a screening at the Dossin.

I. Jim McConnell suggested that the Commission consider obtaining an exhibit table at the Local History Conference March 28/29, especially if the River Raisin National Battlefield Park is interested in working with us and providing staffing support for the table. A motion approving payment of the exhibit table fee was approved. Jim had other info to report, but cannot remember what he said.

K. Phil Porter provided more details on the Fort Holmes project. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued active participation in 182 commemorative activities.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting;

(A) Possible April Meeting Cancelled (Had been set for Mon., April 7 (OR 14), 2014)

(B) Sun., OR Tues., August 3 or 5, in conjunction with Mon., August 4, 2014 Battle of Mackinac Island Bicentennial Reenactment on Mackinac Island

Respectively submitted, Jim McConnell, Secretary